



PRESS RELEASE

G7 Environment Ministers communiqué welcomed by Head of Biodiversity Convention

20 May 2016, Montreal, Canada: The Toyama communiqué issued by G7 environment ministers has been welcomed by Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), for its strong support to both the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the theme of the upcoming thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the CBD, in Cancun, Mexico from 4 to 17 December 2016.

“The messages in this communiqué demonstrate the growing commitment to achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, conceived in Japan in 2010” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity. “I look forward to the deepening of global discussions on the ways to mainstream biodiversity into and across key areas of activity such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, as well as into the Sustainable Development Goals.”

At the end of the 2 day meeting, which was held in Toyama, Japan from 15 to 16 May 2016 a joint communiqué was issued recognizing:

- the need to transition to socio-economic systems that make conservation and sustainable use more valuable than unsustainable use;
- the potential of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaption disaster risk reduction at all levels including by local and national governments; and
- The importance of promoting fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promoting appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

The communiqué also includes a commitment to further develop and advance mechanisms for mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being across strategic sectors. This commitment provides support to the theme of the forthcoming COP 13, planned for Cancun, Mexico.

The original statement by the Ministers can be viewed at: <http://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/102871.pdf>



Convention on
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Note to editors

About the Convention on Biological Diversity

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties up to now, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 170 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified so far by 75 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.